



## **Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory (CLANT)**

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# **ARE YOU SICK OF CRIME IN THE NT?**

## **CLANT SAYS VICTIMS DESERVE BETTER**

**Every Territorian has the power to help reduce crime in the NT. Do you want to know what you can do?**

The definition of 'Insanity' is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome.

If Territorians want change they must become informed and be brave. We need to embrace major change in the way youth justice is carried out.

Part of the reason we have so many young people committing offences is because they have gone through an ineffective, unsuitable and inefficient youth justice system. Face the reality – many of these young people never got the right assistance to start with and unfortunately the current system is a revolving door. We are creating criminals and damaging our community.

We had a royal commission. There was expert evidence taken for weeks on end. The final report with over 200 recommendations was based on that expert evidence. However our parliament is not prepared to trust the experts and implement the recommendations in full.

Irrespective of who was in government, we cannot allow years of failed policy to be reinforced and continued. We can't afford for it to continue.

Our politicians are not being brave – they are scared of losing votes if they are seen as being soft on crime. But it is OUR choice to tell THEM that we have had enough.

We have had enough of the insanity. We want real change.

If you want to do something about crime rates in your community then contact your local Member and demand all of the information relating to this Bill. Demand action. Demand that the recommendations of the Royal Commission are introduced IN FULL.

We as Territorians can change our own future. We can try to put an end to crime and stop senseless tragedies into the future.

In April 2019, the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Social Policy Scrutiny Committee commenced an [Inquiry](#) into important proposed changes to the NT's youth justice laws. Numerous government and non-government organisations made submissions to the Inquiry, which heard evidence at a [public hearing](#) on 30 May 2019.

Here are links to submissions to the Inquiry by the following key service providers, as well as the Human Rights Law Centre and CLANT:

- [Law Society of the Northern Territory](#)
- [North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency](#)
- [Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission](#)
- [Danila Dilba Health Service](#)
- [Jesuit Social Services](#)
- [Human Rights Law Centre](#)
- [Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory](#)

A key common theme is that the NT government should faithfully implement the roadmap laid out for us by the Royal Commission.

Among the issues that were the subject of detailed submissions were the following recommendations of the Royal Commission that are not fully implemented by the Bill now before the Legislative Assembly:

- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12, and to limit the detention of children under 14 to really serious matters.
- Strengthen the principle that for children and young people, arrest must only be used as a last resort
- Repeal the offence of breaching bail as it applies to children and young people.
- Prohibit police pre-charge detention for longer than 4 hours of children and young people without a court order
- Broaden the range of offences for which children and young people are eligible for diversion, and which qualify them for a presumption in favour of bail
- Reduce the naming and shaming of children by restricting access to the Youth Justice Court and the identification of young offenders

The proposals before Parliament go a significant way towards implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations, which is to be strongly welcomed. However, unless the community gets behind the reform agenda there is a risk that the Bill will be watered down and the issues listed above will not be addressed.

**What can you do?** Let your Legislative Assembly Member know that you support the full implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations, so that we can fix our broken youth justice system